

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6885

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, RO

SUBJ: ISRAELI VIEW ON ROMANIAN EMIGRATION POLICY

REF: TEL AVIV 6518

1. IN COURSE OF MY CALL ON MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
RAPHAEL OCTOBER 29, I ASKED FOR HIS IMPRESSIONS OF HIS RECENT
VISIT TO ROMANIA AND PARTICULARLY ABOUT GOR POLICY REGARDING
EMIGRATION OF ROMANIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL.

2. RAPHAEL SAID THAT HE FOUND THE ROMANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY
SATISFIED WITH TREATMENT ACCORDED TO IT BY GOR. THERE WAS
AN ACTIVE RELIGIOUS LIFE, SYNAGOGUES WERE OPEN AND TRADITIONAL
CUSTOMS AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES WERE PERMITTED.

3. AS REGARDS EMIGRATION, RAPHAEL TOLD ME THAT ABOUT 250-300 JEWS
PER MONTH WERE NOW LEAVING ROMANIA FOR ISRAEL. (NOTE: THIS
ESTIMATE IS THE SAME AS THAT PROVIDED US BY ISRAELI AMB COHEM.
BUCHAREST 4987) RAPHEL SAID THAT MOST OF THE EMIGRANTS WERE
YOUNG PEOPLE, MANY OF THEM OFFSPRING OF ASSIMILATED JEWS, WHO
WERE NOW ANXIOUS TO REGAIN THEIR JEWISH HERITAGE. HE ANTICIPATED
THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO WOULD WANT TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL WOULD DE
PERMITTED TO DO SO OVER THE NEXT 4-5 YEARS. THIS WOULD REPRESENT
ABOUT HALF OF THE ROMANIAN JEWISH POPULATION WHICH HE ESTIMATED
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TO NUMBER BETWEEN 60-70,000.

4. RAPHAEL ALSO TOLD ME THAT HE HAD RAISED QUESTION OF
UN THIRD COMMITTEE VOTE ON ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION WITH
GOR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER. (HE WAS UNABLE TO SEE MACOVESCU
WHO WAS LREADY IN NEW YORK.) RAPHAEL BELIEVED THAT THE
ROMANIAN ABSTENTION ON ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION MAY PERHAPS
HAVE BEEN THE CONSEQUENCE OF HIS DISCUSSION IN BUCHAREST, AND
EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT ROMANIANS HAD NOT VOTED WITH SOVIET-
ARAB BLOC.
TOON

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NNN

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